

October 21, 1955

MEMORANDUM 25X1A9a

TO : DRF - [REDACTED]

FROM : DRF - [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Transliteration Handbook HB 50-150-1 of January 1954

DRF has the following observations with respect to FDD's Handbook:

Korea -- Usage differs between DRF and BI and even CIA hasn't followed the Handbook. A major difficulty of using the McCune-Reischauer system is whether phonetic changes of consonants should be recognized in the transliteration of proper names. DRF prefers no hyphen and phonetic change where needed. Drop diacritical marks where possible.

Thailand -- Hopeless ("Pibul" or "Phibun" scarcely look the same but both systems are used widely).

Burma -- not much of a problem.

China -- DRF/C suggests the following rewording of p. 15:

"Transliteration of Chinese geographic names and terminology shall be in accordance with the approved lists published by the Board of Geographic Names. Otherwise, transliteration of Chinese shall follow the Wade-Giles system, with the modifications described in the introduction of Key to Wade-Giles Romanization of Chinese Characters (Army Map Service, Washington, D. C., 1944) and with the option of omitting all diacritic marks except the aspiration sign."